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Suggested Changes to 27 January 1967 ONE Memorandum
subject: "Probable Reactions to Certain US Actions"

1. Suggest that the final sentence in paragraph one be deleted and in the penultimate sentence the phrase "for blocking deliveries of non-military supplies to the people of North Vietnam and" also be deleted. The final sentence then would read "And should this apprehension die down, there would be a residual of criticism against the US for disregarding the principal of "freedom of the seas" in peacetime."

Reason: Most of the supplies flowing in by sea to North Vietnam are of the petroleum or truck variety (direct war support) or portable generators, truck repair facilities, machine tools (indirect war support). There is very little food coming in, perhaps 100,000 to 200,000 tons, which could easily be supplied by rail if the ports were mined.

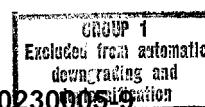
2. Suggest adding the following to the footnote on page 2:

"However, United Kingdom flag arrivals declined 63 percent in 1966 compared to 1965. The Communist countries have been taking over more and more of the commodity movement to North Vietnam and in December of 1966 accounted for 90 percent of the total."

3. Suggest that on page 3, paragraph 4, the following paragraph be substituted:

"4. Hanoi has already begun to prepare its citizens for the possibility that its harbors would be mined. However, the actual mining of the ports would cause serious concern to the Hanoi regime since it would endanger the flow of essential supplies from the USSR and China. If the program were limited to conventional mining of the harbors to prevent the use of deep-draft ocean going ships, imports, while reduced, would continue to flow in from lighter and shallow draft coasters. However, within a few months, operational quantities of a new shallow draft mine will be available to the US. If both mines were used, sea and coastal water movements would be virtually denied. There would be little that Hanoi could do to counter the mining."

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4. Page 4, paragraph 5, suggest the second sentence be changed to end with the following phrase:

"and thus the flow of imports would be highly vulnerable to air strikes."

5. Page 6, paragraph 9, line 3, delete "greatly."

6. Page 7, paragraph 11, delete the final three sentences and substitute the following:

"Should the Soviets decide not to escalate the war, we believe it likely they would bring increased pressure on Hanoi to enter into negotiations, since the US would have indicated its intention to continue escalating the air campaign until this pressure, plus allied military action in the south, would have made such a reconsideration a necessity under less favorable circumstances to Hanoi."

7. Page 8, paragraph 12, delete sentence 3.

8. Page 8, paragraph 13, delete sentence 4 and substitute the following:

"However, in our view, it would probably not affect the flow of supplies, at current levels, to the VC/NVA forces in South Vietnam."

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